

Amendment/Reply

Applicant: Jerald A. Hammann

Serial No.: 09/840,332

Filing Date: April 23, 2001

Docket: H238.101.101

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD EMPLOYING CAPACITY/DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN HUMAN-FACTOR RESOURCE INDUSTRY

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 31-40 as follows:

1.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for capacity/demand management in human factor resource industries, comprising:

accepting, via computer, transaction parameter values for composite resources, wherein each composite resource has associated therewith at least a service location and at least one of a service date and a service time;

communicating at least a portion of the transaction parameter values for at least one composite resource to at least one potential user of the composite resource, the communication attempting to modify at least one of the demand for the at least one composite resource and the capacity of the at least one composite resource, wherein when the capacity exceeds the demand for the at least one composite resource, the communication attempts to increase the demand for and/or decrease the capacity of the at least one composite resource;

wherein the at least one service date and service time is a date and/or time measure indicating a present or future first date and/or time when the service is available;

wherein the communication occurs prior to any first assignment of other concurrently-consumed and/or utilized composite resources to the at least one potential user;

wherein the capacity of the at least one composite resource is a measure of the on-hand supply and/or availability, if applicable, of the at least one composite resource at a first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time; and

wherein the measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first

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date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time is related to at least one human factor resource and is not a static ability; and,

wherein the demand for the at least one composite resource is a measure of the on-hand consumption and/or utilization, if applicable, of the at least one composite resource at the first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to consume and/or utilize additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over the first date and/or time period.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-based capacity/demand management system in human factor resource industries, comprising:

means for accepting transaction parameter values for composite resources, wherein each composite resource has associated therewith at least a service location and at least one of a service date and a service time;

means for communicating at least a portion of the transaction parameter values for at least one composite resource to at least one user, the communication attempting to modify at least one of ~~the~~ a demand for the at least one composite resource and ~~the~~ a capacity of the at least one composite resource, wherein when the capacity exceeds the demand for the at least one composite resource, the communication attempts to increase the demand for and/or decrease the capacity of the at least one composite resource;

wherein the at least one service date and service time is a date and/or time measure indicating a present or future first date and/or time when the service is available;

wherein the communication occurs prior to any first assignment of other concurrently-consumed and/or utilized composite resources to the at least one potential user;

wherein the capacity of the at least one composite resource is a measure of the on-hand supply and/or availability, if applicable, of the at least one composite resource at a first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time; ~~and~~

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wherein the measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time is related to at least one human factor resource and is not a static ability; and,

wherein the demand for the at least one composite resource is a measure of the on-hand consumption and/or utilization, if applicable, of the at least one composite resource at the first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to consume and/or utilize additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over the first date and/or time period.

33. (Currently Amended) A capacity/-demand management system comprising:

a storage device storing a program; and

a processor connected to the storage device and controlled by the program, the processor operative with the program to accept transaction parameter values for composite resources in human factor resources industries, wherein each composite resource has associated therewith at least a service location and at least one of a service date and a service time, and to communicate at least a portion of the transaction parameter values for at least one composite resource to at least one user, the communication attempting to modify at least one of ~~the~~ a demand for the at least one composite resource and ~~the~~ a capacity of the at least one composite resource, wherein when the capacity exceeds the demand for the at least one composite resource, the communication attempts to increase the demand for and/or decrease the capacity of the at least one composite resource;

wherein the at least one service date and service time is a date and/or time measure indicating a present or future first date and/or time when the service is available;

wherein the communication occurs prior to any first assignment of other concurrently-consumed and/or utilized composite resources to the at least one potential user;

wherein the capacity of the at least one composite resource is a measure of the on-hand supply and/or availability, if applicable, of the at least one composite resource at a first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of

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the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time; and

wherein the measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time is related to at least one human factor resource and is not a static ability; and,

wherein the demand for the at least one composite resource is a measure of the on-hand consumption and/or utilization, if applicable, of the at least one composite resource at the first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to consume and/or utilize additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over the first date and/or time period.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for controlling a computer to perform a method comprising:

accepting transaction parameter values related to individual resources and associated composite resources, wherein the associated composite resources each include a collection of at least two of the individual resources, wherein the associated composite resources each have associated therewith at least a service location and at least one of a service date and a service time and ~~wherein the composite resources are in human factor resource industries;~~

storing the data related to the individual resources and the associated composite resources;

constructing internal data structures which link each of the individual resources to associated composite resources and link each of the composite resources to associated individual resources;

indicating, when ~~the~~ a capacity of a composite resource exceeds ~~the~~ a demand for the composite resource, that the demand for the composite resource should be increased and/or the capacity of the composite resource should be decreased;

wherein the at least one service date and service time is a date and/or time measure indicating a present or future first date and/or time when the service is available;

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wherein the indication occurs prior to any first assignment of other concurrently-consumed and/or utilized composite resources to the at least one potential user;

wherein the capacity of a composite resource is a measure of the on-hand supply and/or availability, if applicable, of the composite resource at a first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time; and

wherein the measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time is related to at least one human factor resource and is not a static ability; and,

wherein the demand for a composite resource is a measure of the on-hand consumption and/or utilization, if applicable, of the composite resource at the first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to consume and/or utilize additional quantities of the composite resource over the first date and/or time period.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for producing composite resource transactions, the method comprising:

accepting, via computer, transaction parameter values for composite resources in human factor resource ~~service~~-industries, wherein each composite resource has associated therewith at least a service location and at least one of a service date and a service time;

communicating at least a portion of the transaction parameter values for at least one composite resource to at least one potential user, the communication attempting to modify at least one of ~~the~~ a demand for the at least one composite resource and ~~the~~ a capacity of the at least one composite resource, wherein when the capacity exceeds the demand for the at least one composite resource, the communication attempts to increase the demand for and/or decrease the capacity of the at least one composite resource;

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receiving a responding communication from at least one user binding the at least one composite resource with specified transaction parameter values;

wherein the at least one service date and service time is a date and/or time measure indicating a present or future first date and/or time when the service is available;

wherein the communication occurs prior to any first assignment of other concurrently-consumed and/or utilized composite resources to the at least one potential user;

wherein the capacity of the at least one composite resource is a measure of the on-hand supply and/or availability, if applicable, of the at least one composite resource at a first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time; and

wherein the measure of an ability to produce and/or make available additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over a first date and/or time period beginning at the first date and/or time and ending at a second date and/or time is related to at least one human factor resource and is not a static ability; and,

wherein the demand for the at least one composite resource is a measure of the on-hand consumption and/or utilization, if applicable, of the at least one composite resource at the first date and/or time plus a measure of an ability to consume and/or utilize additional quantities of the at least one composite resource over the first date and/or time period.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein, when the demand exceeds the capacity for the at least one composite resource, the communication attempts to decrease the demand for the at least one composite resource and/or increase the capacity of the at least one composite resource.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32 wherein, when the demand exceeds the capacity for the at least one composite resource, the communication attempts to decrease the demand for the at least one composite resource and/or increase the capacity of the at least one composite resource.

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38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33 wherein, when the demand exceeds the capacity for the at least one composite resource, the communication attempts to decrease the demand for the at least one composite resource and/or increase the capacity of the at least one composite resource.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the method further comprises:

indicating, when ~~the~~ a demand for a composite resource exceeds ~~the~~ a capacity of the composite resource, that the demand for the composite resource should be decreased and/or the capacity of the composite resource should be increased.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein, when the demand exceeds the capacity for the at least one composite resource, the communication attempts to decrease the demand for the at least one composite resource and/or increase the capacity of the at least one composite resource.

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